

From: info@lawtonpauldesign.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 9:17pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom it May Concern:

Under the Tunney Act, below are comments on the proposed settlement of the United States vs. Microsoft antitrust case.

The United States Government and the DOJ are doing a great disservice to all Americans by allowing Microsoft to continue to run roughshod over the entire computer industry. The proposed settlement is far too weak and vague and will allow Microsoft to continue in a business-as-usual mode. Microsoft business tactics squelch innovation and keep prices for software high by not allowing other competitors in the market.

Of many, here are two specific areas of the proposed settlement that are lacking power:

1. The proposed settlement does not prohibit anticompetitive license terms. Microsoft uses these restrictive licensing schemes to keep Open Source apps from running on Windows and keeps Windows apps from running on competing operating systems. (In a truly competitive arena, Microsoft Office would run on Linux.)
2. The proposed settlement does not stop Microsoft from using intentional incompatibilities. Microsoft continually inserts intentional incompatibilities to prevent its applications from running on other operating systems.

Thank you,

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